

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 870

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2629

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX

SUBJECT: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: SITREP NO 23

1. PERIOD SINCE 1230 (MEXICO CITY) MARKED BY VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PRESS PLAY. AS OF 2200, MEXICAN PRESS REPORTS CONTAIN A NUMBER OF INACCURATE STATEMENTS BUT THE GIST OF ALL STORIES IS ESSENTIALLY CORRECT. IN HERMOSILLO, THE MAJOR DAILY EL IMPARCIAL PUT OUT SINGLE SHEET EXTRA WHICH HIT STREETS ABOUT 7:00 P.M. (LOCAL). IT CARRIED A THREE-COLUMN PHOTO OF PATTERSON DESCRIBED AS A GOOD LIKENESS BY CONGEN PERSONNEL. TEXT IDENTIFIED STEPDAUGHTER JULIA BY NAME, SUGGESTED IN ONE PART THAT, "ACCORDING TO AMERICAN EMBASSY", KIDNAPPING PERPETUATED BY "PERSONS UNKNOWN, BUT AUTHORS PRESUMED TO BE FROM 23RD SEPTEMBER LEAGUE". (ATTRIBUTION TO EMBASSY, OF COURSE, INCORRECT). STORY REFERS TO DOLS 50,000 REPEAT DOLS 50,000 RANSOM. IT DOES, HOWEVER, CORRECTLY LOCATE ANDRA PATTERSON AT YELTON'S HOME AND CARRIES PHOTOS OF YELTON AND BPAO MILTON. INCOMING CG, STELLMACHER, ALSO MENTIONED BY NAME. YELTON IS IDENTIFIED AT ONE POINT AS "THE REAL TARGET", WITHOUT ELABORATION.

2. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF ANDRA PATTERSON'S DECISION TO MOVE BACK INTO YELTON RESIDENCE TO AVOID PRESS (MEXICO 2603), PLUS EXPLICIT THREAT CONTAINED RANSOM NOTE, COMAN- DANTE NAZAR IS REVIEWING SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS IN HERMOSILLO. PLAN, IMPLEMENTED AS OF 9:00 P.M. (HERMOSILLO), IS TO
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PLACE AN ARMED PLAINCLOTHES STATE JUDICIAL POLICE AGENT

AT HOME OF EACH AMERICAN CONSULATE EMPLOYEE, WITH TWO AT YELTON RESIDENCE AND ONE AT CONGEN OFFICES. AT 9:00 A.M. MARCH 28 (TIME FOR GENERAL SHIFT CHANGE), TWO ADDITIONAL AGENTS TO BE ASSIGNED TO YELTON HOUSE.

3. OIC FOR GOM, CDTE. NAZAR, HAD (WITH CONCURRENCE MRS. PATTERSON AND CG PERSONNEL) DECIDED TO IMPLEMENT IDEA OF PERSONAL ADVERTISEMENT IN LOCAL PRESS IN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE CONTACT BY KIDNAPPERS. AFTER EXTRA EDITION BY EL IMPARCIAL, IT WAS DECIDED WITHDRAW AD BEFORE PUBLICATION SINCE KIDNAPPERS LIKELY TO CONSIDER IT A TRAP. AD WAS SUCCESSFULLY WITHDRAWN FROM ALL PAPERS EXCEPT AFTERNOON DAILY, LA INFORMACION WHICH PUBLISHED IT ON PAGE 2 IN 3-INCH SQUARE BOX, TEXT AS FOLLOWS:
"ATTENTION -- GIOVANNI. I HAVE THE MONEY YOU NEED FOR THE TRANSACTION. PLEASE CONTACT ME SO I CAN SEND IT TO YOU. ANN". EMBASSY HAS HEARD MEXICO CITY DAILY EXCELSIOR PLANS TO REPORT AD, ATTRIBUTING TO MRS. ANDRA PATTERSON. IF QUERIED, CG PLANS TO SAY, TRUTHFULLY, THAT MRS. PATTERSON DID NOT PLACE AD.

4. MRS. PATTERSON'S REACTION TO REPORT RECEIVED THROUGH WASHINGTON TASK FORCE THAT AP HAD PICKED UP FROM JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DETAILS OF RANSOM DEMANDS AND IDENTIFICATION OF "PEOPLES LIBERATION ARMY" WAS SOMEWHAT MORE PUNGENT THAN THAT REPORTED MEXICO 2582.

5. IN VIEW PUBLICITY OF PATTERSON CASE AS WELL AS THREAT CONTAINED FINAL LINES OF RANSOM NOTE, EMBASSY HAS AGAIN WARNED CONSTITUTENT POST PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS TO MAINTAIN VIGILANCE.
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